

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01139 160818Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /072 W
-----161442Z 054426 /46

R 151719Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3336
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1139

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
SUBJECT: LEBANON: VIEWS OF MARONITE PATRIARCH

1. POLOFF MOLINEAUX AND I CALLED ON MARONITE PATRIARCH ANTONIOS KHORAYSH MARCH 14. CONVERSATION LASTED THREE HOURS, WITH KHORAYSH, WHO IS VERY VOLUBLE, DOING MOST OF THE TALKING. MOST OF HIS REMARKS WERE FOCUSED ON SITUATION IN SOUTH (HE IS FROM VILLAGE OF AIN IBL) AND HIS BELIEF WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT SITUATION THERE. WHEN I ASKED HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD DO, HE SAID WE SHOULD TELL ISRAELIS TO STOP EXPLOITING CHRISTIANS OF AREA. ISRAELIS WERE USING THEM TO FIGHT THEIR BATTLES FOR THEM AND WERE EXPOSING THEM TO INEVITABLE REPRISALS. CHRISTIANS WERE EMBOLDENED TO ATTACK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THE ISRAELIS WERE BEHIND THEM, BUT WHEN THE GAME WAS FINALLY PLAYED OUT, CHRISTIANS, NOT ISRAELIS, WOULD BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE REVENGE.

2. PATRIARCH SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD ISRAELI DESIRE TO PREVENT FEDAYEEN INFILTRATION, BUT HE THOUGHT THIS WAS BEST ACCOMPLISHED BY NEGOTIATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01139 160818Z

AND STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS, NOT BY USING CHRISTIANS AS MERCENARIES. PATRIARCH SEEMED TO FEEL THAT FACT CHRISTIANS WERE VOLUNTEERING FOR JOB BESIDE THE POINT.

3. ON PARTITION, PATRIARCH SAID MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS WERE OPPOSED. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE

OF THOSE LIVING IN PREDOMINANTLY MOSLEM AREAS, BUT WAS ALSO TRUE OF MOUNT LEBANON AS WELL. HE NOTED THAT WHILE NO ONE WAS USING THE WORD "PARTITION" TODAY, THE IDEA WAS CURRENT IN MANY PEOPLE'S MINDS. HE GAVE A LONG SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS SINCE 1860 LEADING TO THE CREATION OF LEBANON AND COMMENTED ON THE IRONY OF THAT FACT THAT MOST MOSLEMS ORIGINALLY OPPOSED THE GREATER LEBANON CONCEPT BUT NOW SUPPORT IT, WHILE CERTAIN CHRISTIANS WERE NOW AGAINST IT. HE THOUGHT PARTITION WAS

UNREALISTIC AND DANGEROUS TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. HE WOULD OPPOSE IT AS BEST HE COULD.

4. ON A NEW POLITICAL FORMULA FOR LEBANON, KHORAYSH VIGOROUSLY ENDORSED IDEA OF LAICIZATION, FOR HIMSELF, IN THE POST-VATICAN-II SPIRIT, RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION WAS STRICTLY A MATTER OF PERSONAL CHOICE. HE SAID HIS FRIEND THE SUNNI MUFTI SUPPORTED RELIGIOUS LIBERALISM IN A LEBANON WITH A CHRISTIAN MAJORITY, BUT WAS AMBIGUOUS ABOUT WHAT HIS ATTITUDE WOULD BE IN A LEBANON WITH A CLEAR MOSLEM MAJORITY. HE (LIKE ALL MARONITES) DISDAINS (AND PERHAPS FEARS) THE IDEA OF A "PROTECTORATE" STATUS FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS UNDER ISLAM. (I HAVE YET TO MEET A MUSLIM WHO IS PROPOSING SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.)
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT01139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770090-0281
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770360/aaaacmv.tcl
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f3a7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3111799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: VIEWS OF MARONITE PATRIARCH
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f3a7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009